



# Tempe Today



a community newsletter

volume 22 ~ Issue 8

August 2006

## Ballet Under the Stars



On September 22 at 7 p.m., bring a picnic dinner, blankets and chairs to the Tempe Beach Park amphitheater and watch a performance by dancers from Ballet Arizona, the state's professional ballet company. This free annual event showcases dancers performing classical and contemporary programs under the stars. Children from local grade schools will perform new dances they created and choreographed through "Class Act," a Ballet Arizona education and outreach program. Tempe Beach Park is located at the northwest corner of Rio Salado Parkway and Mill Avenue. For more information, call 480-350-5287.

## Tempe City Council welcomes returning and new members



Ben Arredondo, Shana Ellis and Onnie Shekerjian were sworn into office on July 6.

## Tempe adopts 2006-2007 budget

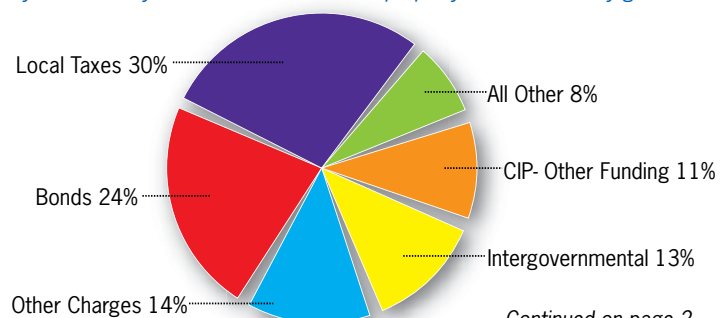
The City of Tempe adopted a \$510.8 million budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 on June 15. The budget consists of a \$314.1 million operating budget and a \$196.7 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The operating budget increased by 14.1 percent and the CIP rose by 3.6 percent, for a total financial program increase of 9.7 percent. Operating budget highlights include the addition of 66 full-time positions. Capital Improvement highlights include water and wastewater projects, and funding for police projects and park renovations.

### Revenue

Overall, city sales and property taxes continue to provide the largest city revenue source, representing 30 percent of the total. User charges, such as water, sewer, solid waste and recreational fees, account for 13 percent. Intergovernmental revenue represents 13 percent and bonds provide 24 percent of total revenue. Other capital funding sources and miscellaneous operating revenue account for the remainder.

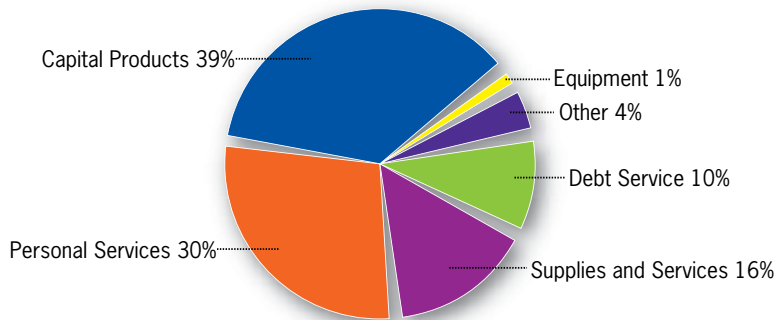
*The city relies heavily on local taxes (sales and property taxes) to run city government*



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## Expenditures

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects represent the largest expenditures, at 39 percent of the total budget. City employee salaries and benefits account for 30 percent. Supplies and services represent 16 percent, while 10 percent is earmarked for the retirement of debt. The remainder is for capital outlay and other miscellaneous expenses.



*Public Safety (police and Fire) accounts for the highest number of citywide employees at 684 positions or 39 percent.*

For more information, call the City of Tempe Office of Management and Budget at 480-350-8350.

## Pet owners can help Tempe maintain water quality

Pet waste swept away by storm water runoff in Tempe empties directly into our lakes, ponds, parks, retention areas, canals and groundwater supplies and contaminates these waters. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that pollution from runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the United States. Help Tempe eliminate contamination from pet waste:

- Don't dump your pet's waste into the street or storm drain system or leave it on the sidewalk or near the street
- Always clean up after your pet – take a bag with you on your next walk
- Dispose of pet waste in the trash or toilet
- Encourage your neighbors and other pet owners to be responsible

For more information, call 480-350-2678.

## Down payment assistance available to low-income, first-time homebuyers

The City of Tempe provides down payment assistance programs to low-income, first-time homebuyers. The Community Assisted Mortgage Program (CAMP) and the American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI) provide deferred loans to eligible buyers who want to live in Tempe.

CAMP offers up to \$35,000 to homebuyers wanting to buy a home in the city-designated Neighborhood Enhancement Area that includes all neighborhoods north of Alameda Drive in Tempe, and \$30,000 for homes bought outside of the Neighborhood Enhancement Area. ADDI offers up to an additional \$10,000 for homes bought within the Neighborhood Enhancement Area and \$8,500 for homes bought outside of it. For more information, call 480-350-8960.

## Tempe firefighters helped combat Brins Fire

In June, four Tempe firefighters spent two weeks helping crews battling the Brins Fire near Sedona. The firefighters moved brush away from structures and supplied water to fire-affected regions. Working 12-hour shifts, the firefighters stayed at the Sedona Red Rock High School campus. Twelve Tempe firefighters are trained in wild land firefighting by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. The firefighters gave assistance through a mutual aid agreement with the Arizona State Land Department.

## New rental tax effective October 1, 2006

The City of Tempe will charge a 1.8 percent privilege (sales) tax on all residential rental units within Tempe effective October 1. Previously, the tax only applied to an individual who owned two or more residential rental units in Arizona with one of the rentals located in Tempe.

To help citizens understand this new ordinance, the Tax & License Division will hold free taxpayer information seminars in City Council Chambers at Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St.:

- August 9, from 10-11 a.m.
- Sept. 13, from 2-3 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

For more information on this change, contact 480-350-2955.



Rendering of future Tempe Transportation Center

## Tempe transit program celebrates 10 years

Groundbreaking ceremony for transit center scheduled

The City of Tempe transit program, called Tempe in Motion or TIM, will celebrate

its 10th anniversary Sept. 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, on Fifth Street between College and Forest avenues.

Free food and artist-designed T-shirts will be handed out to participants. Activities include face painting, a tie-dye activity, environmentally-friendly vendor demonstrations and music. On one Tempe city bus, participants will be asked to place their hand print on the outside of a bus that will be used in daily city routes. Also, throughout the day in Tempe, bus rides will be free for everyone.

As part of the TIM Turns 10 celebration, the city will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the Tempe Transportation Center. Scheduled to open in spring 2008, the Transportation Center will be located at Fifth Street and Forest Avenue and will include a mixed-use, three-story, 40,000-square-foot building, an exterior shaded courtyard and a transit plaza serving the new Metro light rail, and local and regional bus patrons. Also included is a 2,000-square-foot conference and community room.

The Transportation Center will be one of the first buildings of its kind in the nation to be submitted for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. Tempe supports LEED-certified buildings in the community. Green building methods minimize environmental impact and reduce energy consumption while contributing to the health of occupants. For more information, call 480-350-2775 or visit [www.tempe.gov/tim](http://www.tempe.gov/tim).

Check out the City of Tempe's calendar to see how you can reconnect with your community, discover new hobbies and make new friends.

Visit <http://www.tempe.gov/calendar>

## Volunteers needed for literacy program

The City of Tempe has been selected as a new site for Experience Corps, a national program that engages adults 55+ in efforts to improve early childhood literacy. Experience Corps currently operates in 14 cities with 1,800 participants. The city's Community Services Department has been awarded a four-year, \$297,397 grant from The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust to implement Experience Corps beginning this fall. Several local schools will receive a total of 36 volunteers, who will tutor and mentor 250 students in kindergarten through third grade. Experience Corps volunteers who can commit 15 hours a week for nine months will receive a small, bi-weekly stipend. Those interested in volunteering for Experience Corps should contact Peggy Goldberg at 480-858-2465, [peggy\\_goldberg@tempe.gov](mailto:peggy_goldberg@tempe.gov). For more information, visit [www.experiencecorps.org](http://www.experiencecorps.org).



## Laird and Dines

The Laird and Dines building, located at 501 S. Mill Ave., has been one of the longest-standing structures in Tempe. Built in 1893, it first opened as the Heineman and Gill Emporium, offering "fresh goods and the latest fashions" according to *Tempe News*, the local newspaper at the time. The building included space rented by soldiers and real estate agents.

The Laird family and Dr. James Dines relocated their drugstore to the building in 1901, and for 63 years, gave the building its most popular name. During that period, both Dines and Hugh Laird served twice as Tempe's mayor. They served on the City Council more than 35 years combined.

A *Tempe News* article from 1908 included the news that, "Laird and Dines' magnificent new soda fountain is attracting a great deal of attention and much favorable comment. It is one of the handsomest as well as most complete fountains in the Southwest and would be a credit to a city of 50,000 people."

In 1994, the building was restored to its Victorian-era appearance and now houses bars and restaurants.

## Calendar

### City Council Meetings

The August/September schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

#### August 17

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

#### September 7

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

#### September 21

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at

[www.tempe.gov/tempe11](http://www.tempe.gov/tempe11).

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or on the Web site at [www.tempe.gov/clerk](http://www.tempe.gov/clerk).

## Tempe City Council

**Hugh Hallman**, Mayor

**Mark W. Mitchell**, Vice Mayor

**P. Ben Arredondo**, Councilmember

**Barbara J. Carter**, Councilmember

**Shana Ellis**, Councilmember

**Hut Hutson**, Councilmember

**Onnie Shekerjian**, Councilmember

**Will Manley**, City Manager

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To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110. To learn more about the City of Tempe, visit our home page at [www.tempe.gov](http://www.tempe.gov).

City of Tempe

31 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281

## News you can use

### State of the Schools

Superintendents from the Tempe Elementary, Kyrene and Tempe Union High School districts will speak at this year's State of the Schools event on Sept. 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel, 1600 S. 52nd St. The annual event is held by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce to provide an opportunity for the business community to meet district administrators, learn the condition of Tempe's educational institutions and how businesses can assist districts in their goals. Cost is \$25 for Chamber members, \$35 for non-members. For more information, call 480-967-7891.

### G.A.I.N. planning event Sept. 15

Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) nights will be held across Tempe on Saturday, Oct. 28. In preparation, neighborhood associations, block watch captains, and apartment and mobile home community managers are invited to attend a planning meeting Friday, Sept. 15, from 6-7 p.m., at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. At the meeting, a light dinner and door prizes will be offered, as well as opportunities to network with crime prevention representatives and register your party. For more information, call the Crime Prevention Unit of the Tempe Police Department at 480-858-6330.

### Free xeriscape workshops

The City of Tempe is offering free workshops on xeriscape landscaping. At the workshops, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., participants will learn how to plant and care for hardier, drought-resistant landscaping called xeriscape:

- Saturday, Sept. 23 – Basics of designing and converting to a xeriscape landscape.
- Saturday, Sept. 30 – How to choose xeriscape plants and how to maintain them.
- Saturday, Oct. 7 – Drip irrigation design, installation and maintenance.

Participants will receive a free comprehensive xeriscape workbook, xeriscape brochures and information on drip irrigation and maintenance. The workshops will be held in the Community Room of the south Tempe police substation, 8201 S. Hardy Dr. Registration is required by calling Richard Bond of the City of Tempe Water Conservation Office at 480-350-2627.

### ASU tickets discounted for first game of the season

Arizona State University is offering discounted tickets for the first ASU football game of the season. Support your team at Sun Devil Stadium on Thursday, Aug. 31, at 7 p.m., to watch ASU play Northern Arizona University. Tempe residents can purchase up to four tickets at \$15 each for lower-level end zone seats or \$10 each for upper-end zone seats. Tickets went on sale in late July; bring your water bill or other identification showing your current Tempe address to receive the discount.

### Hayden Flour Mill archeology update

The Tempe Historical Museum's free "3rd Thirstday Night Café" series will feature a "ground-breaking" topic on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Staff members from Archeological Consulting Services will discuss findings of the Hayden Flour Mill archeology testing project conducted at the site this summer. The discussion will take place at the museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. For more information, call 480-350-5100.

### Kid Zone now hiring part time staff

The Kid Zone Enrichment Program is looking for energetic, creative, motivated individuals to work with elementary school children as part of its award-winning program. Positions available range from 10 to 30 hours per week at \$9 to \$13 per hour depending on experience. Applications may be submitted at [www.tempe.gov/kidzone](http://www.tempe.gov/kidzone) or in person at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, Second Floor, Social Services Division. For more information, call Leah Sergeant at 480-350-5407.